

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
 SUBJECT Ammunition Dump at Altenhain

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1. The unit which runs the Altenhain Ammunition Dump is commanded by a Lt. Colonel Devin, whose adjutant is a Captain Timmanovski. 50X1-HUM

2. Detachments doing tours of duty at the depot between 25 June and 6 July 1948 were as follows:

a. One from a tank unit at Altenburg. This detachment included the following officers: Capts. Binikov and Vasilev, Sen. Lieutenants Tomsav and Nikolai Avosazov, Lieutenant Menshikov and Junior Lieutenant Petrov.

b. One from a tank unit, equipped with thirty-five tanks, which is normally stationed at Grimma, but has been on Königsbrück Training Area since mid-March 1948. This unit is commanded by Lieut. Colonel Orshenkayev.

c. One from a heavy mortar (Granatwerfer) unit of three companies, stationed at Gera and equipped with 120-mm. and 160-mm. mortars. This detachment arrived in early June 1948 and is billeted in Brandis. It is commanded by Sen. Lieutenant Valentin Ivan Ivanovich Vlasenko.

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3. The "Arbeitskommando Altenburg" in the Altenhain Ammunition Dump is commanded by a Major Gisminski, whose second in command is a Major Paktanov. Other officers of this working party are Captain Sidenikov and a Sen. Lieutenant Kardiyov.

4. The political officer at Altenhain (name unknown) was called to Ohrdruf Training Area for a conference on 4 July 1948 and had not returned on 9 July 1948.

5. A motorized column which came to the dump from Weimar in early July 1948.

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6. During the period 25 June - 5 July 1948 about thirty officers of tank units, all of the rank of major or above, were taking a course at the Altenhain Dump. They came mainly from Königshrück and from Taucha.

7. Among the types of ammunition handled in the dump are the following:

a. 75-mm. (sic) QFHE, weighing twelve kilograms per complete round.

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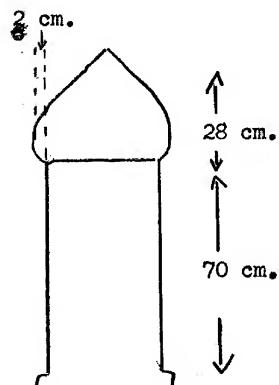
- b. 105-mm. (sic) QFHE, weighing twenty kilograms per complete round. A train-load of this ammunition was despatched to Altengrabow on 9 July 1948, consisting of twenty-five cars, each holding 200 boxes of five rounds.
- c. 122-mm. QB (type of projectile unstated) weighing twenty-four kg per complete round.

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- 8. When ammunition of the above three types is unpacked for cleaning, the fuses are red. After cleaning, fuses on the projectiles with a date of manufacture 1944 or 1945 are left red, while fuses on those dated 1943 are painted black.
- 9. Two rounds only of a new type of ammunition are held at the Altenhain Dump. These were brought out, under close watch by sentries, and shown to the officers on the training course.
- 10. The round is described as follows:

Caliber: 105-mm.
Weight: Unknown.
Length of projectile: 28-cm.
Length of cartridge case: 70-cm.
No markings at all, though the type was referred to in conversation as "Model 48".
Normal rimmed base.

The projectile is screwed into the end of the cartridge case, and protrudes two centimeters beyond the case all around at its widest point. No fuse can be seen on the nose. Snatches of conversation about it between Russian officers suggest that it's a hollow-charge projectile on the "Panzerfaust" model.



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